

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: UPI A-073 AND A-074 DATELINED JERUSALEM BY UPI

-- CORRESPONDENT ALLEN ALTER

QTE

PRESIDENT FORD TOLD ISRAEL THAT UNLESS IT ACCEPTS EGYPT'S CONDITIONS FOR AN INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT NOT SUPPORT ISRAEL AT A RECONVENED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, THE ISRAELI NATIONAL RADIO SAID TODAY.

THE REPORTS SAID FORD ISSUED THE VIRTUAL ULTIMATUM FRIDAY TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ DURING AN ELEVEN MINUTE MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN THE UNITED STATES PASSED ON EGYPT'S COUNTERPROPOSALS FOR AN INTERIM PACT.

"AT THIS MEETING, PRESIDENT FORD BLUNTLY TOLD DINITZ THAT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT ACCEPT EGYPT'S CONDITIONS FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT AMERICA AND ISRAEL WOULD EACH HAVE TO GO THEIR OWN WAY AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE," THE NATIONAL RADIO SAID.

THE REPORT ON THE RADIO AND A SIMILAR ONE IN THE NEWSPAPER
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MA'ARIV WAS BASED ON WHAT PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN TOLD

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AT A SPECIAL SESSION AND CONVEYED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

DINITZ IS EXPECTED TO RETURN HOME FROM WASHINGTON,
POSSIBLY WEDNESDAY, BEARING CLARIFICATIONS FROM CAIRO
ON ITS TERMS FOR AN ACCORD, GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID.

"THE LATEST AMERICAN MOVE COULD BRING WAR CLOSER INSTEAD
OF PREVENTING IT," THE RADIO QUOTED YITGAL HOROWITZ, A
KNESSET MEMBER IN RABIN'S LABOR ALIGNMENT, AS SAYING.

"IF THE PRESSURES WERE SUCH THAT ISRAEL HAD TO PREPARE
FOR WAR, ALL SHOULD KNOW THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT
SURRENDER AND WOULD PREFER TAKING THE MILITARY INITIATIVE
RATHER THAN SUCCUMBING," HE WAS QUOTED.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN TOLD THE RADIO THAT
ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS
WHETHER IT WOULD ACCEPT THE EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSALS
OR MAKE NEW PROPOSALS OF ITS OWN.

"THE FIRST PRIORITY FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY WAS THE
RETURN TO COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES," THE RADIO
QUOTED HIM AS SAYING. THE CABINET SPENT MORE THAN FOUR
HOURS SUNDAY DISCUSSING EGYPT'S COUNTERPROPOSALS, BUT
THE SOURCES SAID CLARIFICATIONS WERE NEEDED BECAUSE THE
PRECISE LINES OF THE ISRAELI PULLBACK IN SINAI WERE
UNCLEAR.

EGYPT, THE SOURCES SAID, FAILED TO PROVIDE MAPS OF THE
PROJECTED ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS IN THE KEY DISPUTED AREA
OF SINAI--THE STRATEGIC MITLA AND GIDI MOUNTAIN PASSES.
ISRAEL WANTS TO RETAIN A HOLD ON THEM IN THE ABSENCE
OF A DECLARATION OF NONBELLIGERENCY BY CAIRO.

"WE WILL NOT FORFEIT OUR POSITION BECAUSE OF PRESSURE"
FROM THE UNITED STATES, ONE SOURCE SAID. "WE'RE NOT
STALLING. DINITZ IS COMING AND THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE
DECISIONS, BUT WE CAN'T FOREGO THE PRIVILEGE OF
CLARIFICATIONS BEFORE WE MAKE DECISIONS. I DON'T THINK
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ISRAEL WILL ACT UNDER AN ULTIMATUM EVEN THOUGH ISRAEL
WANTS A SOLUTION.."

REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SAID INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS
WERE BEING MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
EGYPT. ANY EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICA-
TIONS COULD BE PASSED ON TO DINITZ IN WASHINGTON BEFORE
HE RETURNS HOME. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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